BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2022

PRESENT: Mrs. Diane Vayda; Chairman, Mr. David J. Pierce; Vice-Chair, and Roland Sickenberger, Clerk
ATTENDEES: Captain Richard Lapierre and Ms. Janet Pierce (CMRPC)

Called meeting to Order at 6:00 PM

IAN McELWEE – CMRPC – Update on Local Rapid Recovery Plan (LRRP) and Green Communities Program
Mr. McElwee requested that the discussion regarding the Local Rapid Recovery Plan (LRRP) and Green Communities update be tabled this evening due to his inability to attend this evening. Janet Pierce, director of CMRPC is in attendance this evening to request an extension on the Green Communities grant. With no objections from the Board, the following motion was made: Motion to allow the Chair to sign the grant extension as requested made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

APPOINTMENT – RECREATION COMMITTEE
Motion to appoint Matti Sjoblon to the Recreation Committee made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

CAPTAIN RICHARD LAPIERRE – FIRE DEPARTMENT
Capt. Lapierre is in attendance this evening to provide an update to the Board regarding the Fire Truck Fleet. Also, he is inquiring about the potential of repurposing one of the police department vehicles, should town meeting vote to fund the purchase of a new one.

Currently, he and other members of the department are using their personal vehicles to conduct inspections and due to the high cost of fuel, they are submitting requests for reimbursement, which is permissible under the town's personnel by-laws. He also cited the wear and tear on their vehicles. As stated, he was inquiring as to the board's feelings towards repurposing an old cruiser which can be used for inspections. The board had no objections, however would like to make sure that it would be the most cost-effective method in removing the vehicle from the police rotation (versus trade-in).

Also, while in attendance, he addressed the board regarding the need for a new fire truck. John Madden, the town's financial consultant provided additional information on a Capital Exclusion question. With no objection and with guidance from Mr. Madden, the following motion was made:
Motion to insert a ballot question (Debt & Capital Exclusion) on the ballot at the Annual May town Election made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.
This is the first in a multi-step process. Capt. Lapierre thanked the board for their support in this matter.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

After a review by the board and with some modifications to the proposed Lake Committee article (pending approval by Town Counsel), the following motion was made:

Motion to approve and sign the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for February 8, 2022 made by Mr. Pierce; second; Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

COMMUNITY COMPACT IT GRANT & FOLLOW UP ACTION PLAN

The town has been awarded the Community Compact IT Grant in the amount of $45,000.00 to assist with the migration to Office 365. Town funds will also be used towards the work necessary to re-wire the building. The board requested that Mrs. Acerra send the proposal to legal counsel for review.

MIINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of December 14, 2021 as written made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mrs. Vayda – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Pierce due to absence)
Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of December 30, 2021 as written made by Mr. Pierce; second; Mr. Sickenberger – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mrs. Vayda due to absence)

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health addressed the board this evening to request the use of ARPA funds in order to purchase COVID-19 test kits for residents. The costs of the kit would range between $10 & $15 dollars each and would be dependent on how many kits were purchased. The town is expected to join a group of municipalities in which to order in bulk, thus reducing the costs. The kits would be eligible to the most vulnerable population. Criteria for distribution would be established by the Board of Health. Mr. Pierce suggested an amount not to exceed $20,000.00. Both Ms. Vayda and Mr. Sickenberger were in agreement.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 22 P #13 and 22 W #13 dated December 30, 2021 in the amount of $79,827.36 and $28,471.64 respectively made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.
Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 22 P #14 and 22 W #14 dated January 13, 2022 in the amount of $70,139,89 and $157,745.92 respectively made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.
Motion to sign January MVX Refunds in the amount of $987.65 made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE.

1. The office received an email from AFSCME regarding the Water Department Administrative Assistant position. – ***The Board will look into the matter further***
2. 2022 Annual Town-wide holiday schedule – discussion – possible vote. – ***Discussion tabled at this time until further clarification is made.***
3. The Board of Assessors would like to speak with the BOS to discuss the vacancy in their office due to the Administrative Assistant's retirement on April 1, 2022. – ***Scheduled for our next meeting set for January 25, 2022.***

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 25, 2022 – 6 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Roland Sickenberger, Clerk

January 25, 2022
Date Approved